

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: PENSURST HOTEL

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: 92 Bell Street N-E corner Martin and Bell Streets PENSURST

STUDY NUMBER: 122

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: Penshurst

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: 10 **SECTION:** 17 **PARISH:** PARISH OF YALIMBA

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 475J C11; VicRoads 233 P11; located in the north-east corner of Martin and Bell Streets immediately opposite the Post Office in the centre of the township of Penshurst.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Penshurst Hotel, Martin and Bell Sts, Penshurst

Image Date: 29/04/02

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the main building, but excluding the interiors, the remnants of the stables and all of the land.

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STUDY NUMBER: 122

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The Peshurst Hotel is a two-storey bluestone building with elevations to both Martin and Bell Streets. The original timber window frames and sashes have been replaced with green powder-coated aluminium windows. The cast iron and timber verandah, which was probably added some time after the original construction and appears in old photographs, was demolished after the Second World War, but evidence in the walls survives. A brick porch has been added on the west side of the building, and a concrete block extension has been added to the south-east of the main wing. The public bar has been altered internally. (The other interiors have not been inspected.) The ruins of substantial stables, apparently of two-storeys, survive in the rear yard.

HISTORY:

D. Kennedy first purchased the land on which the Peshurst Hotel stands from the Crown on 8th September 1852 (Department of Lands & Survey, 1955). It is not known if this was Duncan Kennedy, a squatter who held the Croxton run, as well as having interests in the Linlithgow Plains (now Devon Park) and Hyde Park runs. He was appointed to the Legislative Council in 1854 and, having purchased land in the Parish of Croxton West in 1857, sold Croxton in 1858. Kennedy Street, in the township of Peshurst was named after him.

The exact date of construction of this building is not certain, but the use of bluestone; and the twelve pane double hung sash windows suggest as early as the 1850s. However, the timber and cast iron verandah, now demolished, appears to have been constructed at a later date. There are the ruins of substantial stables in the yard.

The Peshurst Hotel appears to have passed through many hands in its earliest times. The first recorded publican was William Murphy (incorrectly spelt 'Murple' in the first minutes of the Mount Rouse Shire Council Meeting) who is rated in the Shire of Mount Rouse Ratebook as the owner and occupant in 1863 (SMR 1863, #126). It appears that Murphy remained until 1867, when John Earls is noted as the owner (SMRB, 1867, #207 & 1870 #117). Earls had an interest in several hotels in Peshurst, sometimes as owner and sometimes as occupant, including the Cricketers Arms Hotel, the Mount Rouse Inn and the Prince of Wales Hotel. He was also an important early storekeeper. At some time between 1867 and 1870, the lease of the Peshurst Hotel passed to John Buchanan Morris, who is listed briefly as the publican and occupant in 1870 (ibid., 870 #427).

According to 'Victoria and Its Metropolis' (63), the hotelkeeper in 1882 was John B. Frewer who, with his mother, had previously run the Swan Hotel, Ballarat, and then from 1879 alone ran the Victoria Hotel, Macarthur. It was described at the time as 'one of the leading houses of the district'. The hotel changed hands in 1924 when it was sold to William D. Ross and was occupied by Charles W. Carr. (SMR RB 1924 #565A.) Of the six or more hotels which have operated in the town, the Peshurst Hotel has been consistently the largest and highest rated. It is now the only hotel operating. The cast iron and timber verandah which is evident in later nineteenth century photographs was removed after World War Two, and a brick porch was substituted on the Martin Street elevation. Later, a new cream brick wing was added on the Bell Street elevation

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies
3.22 Lodging people

Theme 8: Developing Australia's Cultural Life
8.4 Eating and drinking

CONDITION:

The building is in sound structural condition but has been compromised by the removal of the windows, the demolition of the verandah and the construction of the concrete block extension.

INTEGRITY:

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STUDY NUMBER: 122

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

Fair degree of integrity apart from replacement of windows, missing two storey cast iron verandah and additions on west and south-east elevations.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

The Penshurst Hotel is located on the north east corner of the main crossroads at the centre of the township of Penshurst. The hotel is a two-storey bluestone building with elevations to both Martin and Bell Streets. The building has had the original verandah removed and several unsympathetic additions, including a brick porch to the west and a concrete block extension to the south-east of the main wing. The public bar has been altered internally. The ruins of substantial stables, apparently of two-storeys, survive in the rear yard. The Penshurst Hotel is believed to have been built in the 1850s, although the architect and builder are unknown. The building is in fair condition, although the interiors have been substantially altered, and the integrity has been compromised by unsympathetic additions and the removal of timber and iron verandah.

How is it significant?

The Penshurst Hotel is of historical and architectural significance to the township of Penshurst and to the Shire of Southern Grampians.

Why is it significant?

The Penshurst Hotel is of historical significance as the only surviving hotel in Penshurst, which at the turn of the century boasted six or seven hotels. It is an important remnant of an earlier, more prosperous period in the history of the town. Its position on a prominent in the absolute centre of town, opposite the important civic buildings such as the court house and post office indicates the importance of the hotel since the 1850s.

The Penshurst Hotel is of architectural significance as rare surviving example of a two storey bluestone hotel dating from the 1850s.

COMPARISON:

148 Cricketer's Arms Hotel (former), N-E corner of Hamilton Highway and Dickens Street, Penshurst

121 Victoria Hotel (former), 100 Bell Street, Penshurst

147 Prince of Wales Hotel (former), 104 Watton Street, Penshurst

ASSESSED BY: tth

ASSESSMENT DATE:

01-Dec-01

EXISTING LISTINGS:

HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Include in VHR Include in RNE Include in Local Planning Scheme

No Recommendations for Inclusions

REFERENCES:

Author	Title	Year	Page
Alexander Sutherland, ed.	Victoria and Its Metropolis, Vol. 2A	1888	63
Department of Lands and Survey	Township of Penshurst, County of Villiers	1955	
Shire of Mount Rouse	Shire of Mount Rouse Rate Books (entry # 564)	1924	
Shire of Mount Rouse	Shire of Mount Rouse Rate Books (entry # 117 & 424)	1870	
Shire of Mount Rouse	Shire of Mount Rouse Rate Books (entry # 207)	1867	
Shire of Mount Rouse	Shire of Mount Rouse Rate Books (entry # 126)	1863	

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: BALOCHILE HOMESTEAD SITE

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Balochile Road KONONG WOOTONG

STUDY NUMBER: 123

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

**OTHER NAME/S
OF PLACE:** STRONE

PRECINCT: outside

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

PARISH: PARISH OF KONONG WOOTONG

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 430 A-37, located approximately 200 metres south of Fassiferne Road, off Balochile Road

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the remaining gardens and all of the land in a 10 000sq metre radius from the plaque erected at the centre of the site.

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